

164th AW FAMILY PROGRAM NEWS

TGIF – THE GUARD IS FAMILY!



Airman & Family Program Office

June 2012

A FEW WORDS FROM THE AIRMAN & FAMILY PROGRAM OFFICE...

By: Betty Gaskins, Airman & Family Program Manager

Recently I was asked to send out a survey on base. Air Force and wing leadership want to hear the issues/concerns that our Air Guard members have. They want to take action to improve the quality of life for Airmen and their families. The goal of the survey was to identify gaps in support or services and improve what we can do better. I submitted the replies to NGB and hopefully, they will pay attention to the concerns.

The survey wanted to know: “What is your most important concern right now?”

- * Family support-issues such as employment, childcare, youth, access to services for family
- * Education-school support of member and family
- * Health & Wellness-access to services, insurance, TRICARE, etc
- * Exceptional Family Member Prog-Special needs support for family members
- * Deployment support for member and family—was family prepared for member’s absence
- * Guard support-unit support
- * Transition Assistance-assistance for members leaving the guard
- * Other

It was not surprising to me that over half of the responses listed EMPLOYMENT as the number one concern... more than all the other categories combined. With our transition from the C-5 to the C-17 aircraft, we will have a reduction of base personnel. People are definitely concerned.

More and more companies are looking for new employees who have military experience. Virtual Job Fairs are popping up more frequently and ESGR (Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves) are sponsoring Employment Workshops followed by a Job Fair (with Employers who are there to hire Guard members) all across the state. Our ESGR rep for West TN is Dan

Callahan. **Dan is planning an ESGR Workshop and Job Fair to be held at the 164th possibly in Aug or Sept. I will pass on all the information when it is confirmed.**

Locally, I have been contacted by Kelly Services who wants to hire Guard members to work at Nike. If you are interested in more info, call Lisa at 901-351-5810.

I have also been contacted by the Manager at Robert Half International. They offer office, clerical, administrative, and accounting positions. Jobs are from temp to full time for companies in the Memphis and West Memphis area. They want to hire Guard members or their spouses. Call 901-522-1500 for more information on these positions.

One other local business interested in hiring Guard members is Dahcor Construction. They need all types of workers for commercial and residential construction jobs. 901-795-4405.



HELMETS TO HARDHATS -- Direct-Entry Construction Career Program

"Helmets to Hardhats" is a Congressionally-funded national program established to connect Active-duty and Reserve Component members who are transitioning out of military service with training and employment opportunities within the construction industry. This program enables candidates to start construction careers soon after they apply. The program also gives them credit for military training and experience. Military personnel interested in a career in the construction industry can learn more about this program at: <http://www.helmetstohardhats.org>



TRICARE SMART Website: One-stop Information Portal

TRICARE SMART – Standardized Materials and Research Technology – website is a one-stop, online information portal full of accurate, up-to-date information about TRICARE benefits that members and their families can easily access in the comfort of their homes. View the website at **www.tricare.mil/smart**

By using the TRICARE SMART website, National Guard and Reserve members can stay informed about the latest TRICARE programs created just for them and their families. These programs include TRICARE Reserve Select, as well as benefits that are only available while serving on active duty.

The “TRICARE Choices Guide,” which can be found under “Handbooks” on the website, makes it easy for a guardsman or Reserve member to make informed decisions about programs

such as TRICARE Prime and Standard for his or her family. For easy navigation, all publications on the website are organized by regions and publication type and there is a search feature. Publications are also printer-friendly.

National Guard and Reserve members are encouraged to stay informed about TRICARE benefits during activation and deactivation periods. The TRICARE SMART website makes it easy to do just that. For more information on TRICARE SMART, visit www.tricare.mil/SMART.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT ...

The deadline for applications for the Mathew Casey Scholarship is July 8, 2012!

The Mathew Casey Scholarship fund provides scholarships to deserving children of members and former (retired and deceased) members of the 164th AW. Past recipients have been children of officers and enlisted members.

Applicants must be a high school senior or high school graduate. They must be accepted for entrance into an accredited college or university of his/her choice or be eligible to re-enroll in an accredited college or university.

Applicants must demonstrate qualities of leadership by participation in activities such as: athletics, scholastic clubs, and civic organizations, or otherwise demonstrate leadership characteristics.

Go to the 164th AW homepage to download the application package. The Chief's council will convene after July UTA to review and award scholarships prior to the fall semester (August timeframe). Please see any of the Chiefs if you have any questions pertaining to the completion of the application.



ONE DAY "MINI-CAMPS" FOR KIDS



This year the NG Youth Program will be hosting One Day "mini-camps" in each region of the state for Tennessee National Guard youth. We are hosting these camps in an effort to reach youth ages 5-12 that may not otherwise be able to attend the weeklong camp in Greenville, TN.

We are very excited to kick off our camp season and have many activities to offer at each Day Camp such as archery, crafts, paintball, fishing, kickball, Blackhawk helicopter or tactical vehicle displays, outdoor water games, slip-n-slide, introduction to basic drill and ceremony, and more. The cost of the camp is \$10 per camper and will include giveaways, lunch, snacks, and activities.

Dates and locations for the TNNG Day Camps are as follows:

23 June: Milan Training Site, Lavinia, TN (Near Jackson, TN)
30 June: Volunteer Training Site, Smyrna, TN (Near Nashville, TN)
7 July: Catoosa Training Site, Catoosa, GA (Near Chattanooga, TN)

Youth should arrive on Saturday of their camp at 8:30am for registration and will be released at 3:00pm.

Call the Airman & Family Program office (901-291-7125) for an application. Applications should be submitted NLT 15 June 2012.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS -- ARE YOU READY?

Ready Shelby is a public awareness and educational outreach initiative throughout Memphis and Shelby County that encourages everyone to take positive, simple steps toward being personally prepared for a man-made emergency or a natural disaster.

Studies show that just thinking about emergency preparedness improves how you will come through the challenge. So go ahead, think about it! Better yet, start with these five important steps.

- **Make a Family Communication Plan.** Gather your family and start talking. It's the first and easiest step. Answer question like: Where to meet if you can't come home. Who's picking up the kids. What to do with your pets. **Find talking tips on ReadyShelby.org**
- **Know your Safe Place.** Do you know where you'll go if an emergency has you dashing for cover? Plan your safe place at home and work. **Look for pointers on ReadyShelby.org**
- **Pack Emergency and First-Aid Supply Kits.** Do you have enough food, water and essential supplies to take care of your family and pets for 72 hours? **Download a complete list on ReadyShelby.org**
- **Learn Compression-Only CPR.** Whether it's compression-only or mouth-to-mouth, CPR saves lives. Everyone in your family should learn the basics. **Read how-to steps on ReadyShelby.org**

- **Participate in Free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.** Do your part for your community and become trained in basic disaster preparedness skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. **Learn more at ReadyShelby.org**



WARRIOR’S CODE OF HONOR

The “Warriors Code of Honor” has come to the attention of the Idaho Department of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Its author wishes to remain anonymous. We know this about him though – his experiences as an 18 year-old rifleman in an infantry rifle platoon of the U.S Army 7th Infantry Division in Korea and his experiences coming home led him to write this Code. He is also a Purple Heart Medal recipient and a life time member of both the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

The Warrior’s Code of Honor is important and needs to get out to as many Veterans as possible – especially those suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It is very enlightening and helps combat veterans realize they are not alone.

The author says, “I wrote it because my coming home expectation that things would be more or less the same was so unrealistic that it crashed and burned, along with my heart. This happened because: I had no idea that I was so emotionally numbed-up/shut down that I could not feel my feelings (how do you know you are emotionally damaged if you cannot feel your emotions?)

Read more at: www.militarycodeofhonor.com



RETIRED AIR GUARD ASSOCIATION of the 164th AW

After your official military service is completed, you can still remain associated with the Air Guard through the Retired Air Guard Association.

Membership is open to all traditional guardsmen, civil service employees, AGR’s, State of Tennessee employee’s and Full Time Technicians who retire with a minimum of 20 Years of service.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the 164th dining facility at 7:30 AM to share coffee, donuts, and some small talk for about 30 minutes to an hour. This is a good way to stay in contact with your fellow co-workers once you have retired.

In addition to the monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month the group hosts a spring dinner each April in which our wives or significant others are invited. A fall dinner serves as our annual business meeting. Annual dues of \$35.00 per year cover the cost of the spring and fall dinners.

Interested in joining the group? Contact: Billy Baxter, Secretary-Treasurer at 901-491-0104.



TIME FOR SUMMER FUN... HERE'S TO THE HEROES PROGRAM



Any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman is entitled to **FREE admission** to Busch Gardens (in Williamsburg or Tampa Bay), Sea World (in San Antonio or San Diego) or Sesame Place under the Here's to the Heroes program. He or she need only register, either by [clicking here](#) and submitting his or her information or in the entrance plaza of participating parks, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. As part of the Here's to Heroes program the military member may bring three guests. The guest **MUST BE** direct dependents of the military personnel and have a valid dependent Department of Defense ID. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member though a family member must accompany minor dependents, and dependent ages 10 and over must present valid dependent Department of Defense I.D.

Valid military identification and dependent Department of Defense I.D(s) required for offer. Non-transferable. Non-refundable. Not valid at Aquatica, Discovery Cove, Christmas Town at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA, Howl-O-Scream Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay, FL, and A Very Furry Christmas Sesame Place in Langhorne, PA. Not valid with any other discounts or offers. Subject to change or cancellation. Limit one complimentary admission per person, per year.

<http://www.herosalute.com>

You can also contact the ITT (Information, Travel, and Tickets) office at the Millington Navy Base for information on discounts to Disney World, Six Flags, etc. 901-874-5455



USEFUL SITES TO CHECK OUT

Joint Services Support - This portal, and its program sub-portals, is designed to give you a “one stop shopping” location where you can get important information on a variety of programs that have been created to support you - <http://www.jointservicessupport.org>

Military One Source - whether its help with child care, personal finances, emotional support during deployments, relocation information, or resources needed for special circumstances, Military OneSource is there for military personnel and their families... 24/7/365!
<https://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx>

Military HOMEFRONT - is the official Department of Defense web site for reliable Quality of Life information designed to help troops and their families, leaders and service providers. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, you'll find what you need!
<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Turbo Tap - is Department of Defense's official website providing information for servicemembers on transitioning from military service. This site is also supported by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs. TurboTAP.org is intended to supplement the services offered by the Transition Assistance Offices and other groups. - <http://www.turbotap.org>

200 stores that provide military discounts:
<http://www.bradsdeals.com/blog/2010/09/22/160-stores-with-military-discounts/>

National parks entrance fees waived for troops



**Watch for news about the DINING OUT that will be held in November.
This is a very special event for guard members and their spouses!**

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER THROUGH THE MAIL, PLEASE LET THE FAMILY PROGRAM OFFICE KNOW IF YOU HAVE AN ADDRESS CHANGE, SO WE CAN KEEP OUR MAILING LIST UP TO DATE. – THANKS! 901-291-7125

This newsletter is published for members, family and friends of the 164th Airlift Wing, Memphis, TN. Contents of the 164th AW Family Program News are not necessarily the views of the U. S. Government, The Department of Defense, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.